

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TECH, SW

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON IAEA MEETING

REF: STOCKHOLM 1340

1. SWEDEN'S TWO PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED MAJOR ARTICLES ON MAY 3 REPORTING THAT THE US MIGHT INTERFERE IN SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUELS TO SWEDEN. ARTICLES QUOTE JOSEPH NYE, AND ARE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SWEDEN WHICH IS ITSELF NOW FORMULATING ITS POLICIES TOWARD NUCLEAR POWER. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OR AFFIRMATION OF QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO US REP. PRESS COVERAGE FOLLOWS.

2. QUOTE SVENSKA DAGBLADET'S CORRESPONDENT IN SALZBURG, KATRIN HALLMAN, REPORTS FROM THE IAEA MEETING THAT SWEDEN NO LONGER CAN EXPECT TO GET ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE US IF SWEDEN SIGNS A CONTRACT WITH THE FRENCH-BRITISH UNITED RE-PROCESSORS FOR REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL FROM SWEDISH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS DURING THE 1980S.

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3. THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE BY JOSEPH NYE, THE US CHIEF DELEGATE, WHO REPORTED ON THE NEW US POLICIES AT THE NUCLEAR POWER CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG--"THE USA CANNOT ACCEPT OTHER COUNTRIES' USE OF AMERICAN URANIUM IN FUEL WHICH IS LATER SENT TO BE REPROCESSED WHEN THE USA WILL NOT DO SO," SAID JOSEPH NYE.

4. THIS WILL MAKE IT MORE COMPLICATED FOR SWEDISH NUCLEAR POWER COMPANIES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE (SWEDISH) CONDITIONS BILL. ALF LARSSON OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, A MEMBER OF THE SWEDISH DELEGATION, STATED THAT NEW NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE SWEDISH AND US GOVERNMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED. ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS BILL, THE POWER COMPANY MUST SHOW, BEFORE A REACTOR IS LOADED, THAT THE WASTE IS EITHER REPROCESSED OR OTHERWISE SAFELY HANDLED.

5. THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWER POLICY MAY MEAN THAT ONLY THE LATTER ALTERNATIVE REMAINS, WHICH MAY CAUSE COMPLICATED LEGAL AND POLITICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CONDITIONS BILL. ACCORDING TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SWEDEN AND USA, THE USA MUST APPROVE ALL EXPORT OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FROM SWEDEN IF THE FUEL IS ENRICHED IN THE USA. EVEN THE CONTRACT, WHICH IS NOW UNDER PREPARATION WITH FRENCH COGEMA CONCERNING NUCLEAR FUEL FROM THE REACTORS BARSEBACK II AND RINGHALS III DURING THE 70S MUST IN PRINCIPLE BE APPROVED BY THE USA. "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT CAN BE ACCEPTED. WE DO NOT WANT TO STOP ANY COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. IF A COUNTRY CANNOT STORE ITS FUEL, WE MAY AGREE TO REPROCESSING IN A THIRD COUNTRY," SAID JOSEPH NYE.

6. ALL FUEL IN THE SWEDISH REACTORS IS ENRICHED IN THE USA. THE SWEDISH-AMERICAN AGREEMENT COVERS ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR 12 REACTORS UP TO 1996. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE SWEDISH DELEGATION, SWEDEN MAY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPLE BUY ENRICHMENT SERVICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. WITH RESPECT TO THE REACTORS RINGHALS II AND III, WHICH WERE DELIVERED FROM THE USA, USA HAS FULL CONTROL OVER THE FUEL, IRRESPECTIVE OF ITS SOURCE. UNQUOTE.

7. DAGENS NYHETER'S CORRESPONDENT BO B. MELANDER TOOK UP NYE'S STATEMENT THAT USA WILL TRY TO DEVELOP BREEDER REACTORS, OPERATING ON A SUBSTANCE CALLED TORIUM. QUOTE HE (NYE) WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE WHOLE WORLD OUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER ENERGY SOURCES WHICH CANNOT BE TURNED INTO WEAPONS.

8. PROFESSOR JAN RYDBERG, NUCLEAR CHEMIST AND WASTE EXPERT AT CHALMERS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN GÖTEBORG WAS INTERVIEWED BY BO MELANDER. PROFESSOR RYDBERG BELIEVES THAT CARTER'S ENERGY POLICY WAS INSPIRED BY THE FORD FOUNDATION STUDY GROUP IN THE USA. RYDBERG FEELS THAT THIS GROUP LOOKS UPON NUCLEAR POWER IN A TOO

NARROW WAY, NOT REALIZING EUROPE'S DIFFERENT ENERGY SITUATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS THE LACK OF LARGE OIL SOURCES AND URANIUM DEPOSITS. RYDBERG DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD ACCEPT CHANGES IN THEIR NUCLEAR PLANS. MANY PAPERS ARE HERE PRESENTED IN SALZBURG WHICH INDICATE A CONTINUATION OF THE PURSUED NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY.

9. DR. SIGVARD EKLUND, HEAD OF THE IAEA, STATED TO DN: I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE NEW POLICY. DEVELOPMENT OF A TORIUM BREEDER WHICH DOES NOT PRODUCE PLUTONIUM WILL TAKE A LONG TIME. THE FACT IS THAT IAEA'S POLICY IN THE FIELD IS NOW FACED WITH AN AMERICAN, QUITE DIFFERENT, ALTERNATIVE AND ONE CANNOT AVOID TALKING ABOUT A POSSIBLE CONFLICT. UNQUOTE.
PERRY

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